

Part 2

Read the text and fill the gaps with sentences A-G. Write the letter of the missing sentence in the box in the correct gap. There is one extra sentence you will not need.

The English Channel

The English Channel is an arm of the Atlantic Ocean that separates England from northern France and joins the North Sea to the Atlantic. In French it is called "La Manche" or "the sleeve". It is the smallest of the shallow seas around the continental shelf of Europe, covering an area of only some 75,000 km.

The channel has been the key natural defence for Britain. **1** The last successful cross-Channel invasion of England was made in 1066 by William the Conqueror. The Channel stopped Napoleon in the early 1800's. **2** The greatest amphibious operation of all times, Operation Overlord, was launched across the Channel by the Allies in 1944.

3 The first person to swim the Channel was Matthew Webb of England, in 1875. His time was 21 hours, 45 minutes. **4** She was Gertrude Ederle from the United States. She crossed in 14 hours, 31 minutes. In 1909 Louis Bleriot became the first to fly an airplane across the Channel.

5 It is a 50.5 kilometre undersea rail tunnel linking Folkestone, in England, with Calais in northern France beneath the English Channel at the Strait of Dover. The Channel Tunnel has the longest undersea portion of any tunnel in the world. **6**

- A. The Channel has also provided a challenge to the athletic and adventurous.
- B. It also halted the invasion of Nazi Germany during World War II.
- C. The Channel Tunnel was completed in 1994.
- D. For centuries it has protected England from invasion by European powers.
- E. The Channel is rough because currents of the Atlantic and North Sea meet there.
- F. It was many years later, in 1926, when a woman first made the swim.
- G. At its lowest point it is 75m deep.

Total: 6 marks